



Dartmouth United Soccer Club

Annual Report 2008

President's Report

Introduction

It is my pleasure to provide a summary of the past year as experienced from the role of President of the Dartmouth United Soccer Club (DUSC). My colleagues from around the Board table will, in their reports, chronicle the many and varied ways we have worked together to deliver a quality soccer program for so many children and adults in the Dartmouth area. I will try to not repeat their comments beyond echoing our appreciation for the many volunteers from our membership who help day after day, game after game, to ensure a positive experience for all who choose our club for their soccer experience.

I did not begin the year as your President. I was appointed in early April by our Board of Directors as they sought to stabilize Board governance and club operations following several months of contentious discussion regarding the strategic direction of the club and the manner in which it should work to support member expectations.

Player Registration

From my new vantage point, I recall my initial impressions of the club. It was summer registration time and all hands were busy managing multiple concurrent activity in an attempt to register all our players on time. It was extremely busy and I was struck by how such a small crew could do so much in so little time. Quickly, I was able to pinpoint several persons whose energy and leadership was especially valuable during this critical time. Mary Kate Needler our Registrar and Mary Britten, VP Minis come to mind immediately as well as Dorothy Ogilvie and her office helpers – all of these people applied themselves throughout the Spring in a tireless and sacrificial way to enable an incident-free kick-off of our season.

Tryouts & Team Selection

A companion process with its own complexity, drama and pace is our tryout and team selections which are conducted in the Spring and Fall of each year. I have been a participant in this process for years as a coach but now have a fresh appreciation for the nuances, discipline and rigour our technical teams apply towards ensuring each player is placed on the right team for their age, proficiency, potential and interest. Once again, as I reflect on this aspect of our club, I think of Wally Murphy, VP Boys & Dan McKeen, VP Girls, our age group coordinators as well as Colin Steeves, Technical Director and his capable technical team as the hero's of this critical process.

Our Mini Program

I remember learning of the logistics nightmare associated with planning, scheduling and coordinating our vast mini soccer program. I watched as our volunteer leaders pulled out all the stops to make sure each child was assigned to the field, team, and time of their choosing and, of course, in a way which ensured their friends were on the same team too! We could not resolve every request but certainly did everything we could to satisfy each household. Mary Britten, VP Minis, Duncan O'Quinn-Wetzel and an impressive team of coordinators and parent coaches pulled all this off – what a team!

Two Tournament Weekends

Then there was the planning and execution of our two tournaments. The Mini tournament – another logistics puzzle – was a great success. When I dropped in on a glorious sunny weekend there must have been 500

children on the Shannon Park fields all of which were having a great time in a well coordinated manner. Once again, our thanks go to all the volunteers who made this weekend so memorable.

Our Annual Tier 2 tournament for our youth teams was especially memorable too but more so for its challenges – the rainy weather and a disastrous decision by the city to temporarily close our fields. Once again though and, while under extreme stress, our leadership team led by Blaine Thompson, Alan Parslow and Wally Murphy managed to deliver the impossible such that all competitions were miraculously completed by the end of the weekend.

Summer Play

Meanwhile all of our teams from under 3's to our numerous senior teams were enjoying their season. Again, I gained a new appreciation for the scope and scale of our operation. Nearly 2,200 persons registered to play summer soccer with over 500 staying on for the winter program. Our teams are registered in 7 different leagues. We operated 7 senior, 41 youth, and about 100 mini teams this past summer. Approximately 2,000 games are played each summer by our teams. For all this fields must be reserved, referees paid, league rules and regulations followed, our policies and procedures enforced (especially with respect to the safety and security of our young players) and our relationships with the municipality and independent school authority's and Soccer Nova Scotia managed appropriately. To help provide daily support for all this administration work we employ only part time staff (bookkeeper, equipment manager, office coordination, technical director). Once again, the work of very few meant so much too so many. Our thanks specifically go out to Dorothy Ogilvie, Peter Walker and Colin Steeves who are the principal members of our valued staff team.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors are members of our organization specifically charged with the responsibility to execute and govern the business of the club. In many ways their work should be invisible to the membership as they are primarily concerned with establishing the right policy, spending, procedural and resourcing framework necessary to run our summer and winter soccer programs. Accountable to and chosen by the membership, they are our chief leadership team who function as stewards of the organizations vision and purpose. My role, as President, is to chair the meetings of the Board and to serve as an ambassador for the club as it interacts with others in the soccer community in which we operate. Each Director on our board ordinarily has “another” role – for example, I happen to coach an Under 18 tier 2A girl's team - but when together as a Board of Directors is expected to contribute to the orderly operation and evolution of all the clubs activity.

I joined the Board after a period of significant debate between Board members. Concern had been expressed about the stewardship of our financial resources, about the need for greater transparency and accountability to our membership, and about the direction of the club with respect to facilities and long term obligations. These discussions had led to the departure of several Board members and significant upset throughout the club. Our immediate priority was to fill any holes left by departing Board members and then to immediately work to ensure our governance issues did not indirectly affect club operations over the remainder of the year. Only now do I realize how successful we have been in doing this. My congratulations to every member of the Board for their steadfast diligence in this respect.

Special Mention

Our Treasurer, Brian Lane, out of acute concern for our financial position, led in the careful management of discretionary expenditures and in the recovery of several chronic and long standing receivable situations, as well as the identification of new revenue sources for the club. He never deviated from a stubborn resolve to turn in a cash positive year. As you can see from his report - we have managed to exit this year in a far stronger financial position than anticipated last winter. Further, and late in the past year, we were able to negotiate a sublease of

our gym facility to a soccer academy. This success will help us mitigate the significant cost of our lease for this space in 2009 and make managing our bottom line that much easier. We handle nearly \$500,000 of our members' money every year – the Board takes this significant responsibility very seriously.

Our secretary, Alan Parslow, has been similarly diligent in the development of our policy and procedures with respect to critical and sensitive areas such as police record checks, sponsorship guidelines, Board transparency, membership status, Board discipline and tryout policy. His leadership in this area has set the stage for a much needed review and reworking of the policy and procedure framework for our organization.

Our Registrar, Mary Kate Needler, took on one of the most challenging and detailed roles in our club. Working from home, often late at night and with extensive help from Dorothy Ogilvie, she managed the very involved process of registering each player. Her emphasis throughout was towards fairness and equity in the handling of each player. I know she has had hundreds of phone calls regarding payment arrangements, team assignment, and the like throughout the year. Her quiet and careful management of the registrar function and the sensitive way in which she handled exceptional situations has been especially beneficial this past year.

Dan McKeen also deserves special mention for the role he played as VP, Girls but also for his specific contribution and support to Colin Steeves and the technical side of our soccer program. Dan, like me was a late addition to the Board and immediately made a valuable contribution. Dan & Colin worked closely together this year and introduced several innovations to our programming in an effort to better balance Tier 1 and Tier 2 youth technical support, institute greater diligence and process for our skills assessment processes, and to find ways to push our technical program down into the mini division. Some of their ideas were implemented right away with others being readied for introduction this coming year, but suffice to say our technical program received more scrutiny and analysis this year than has been the case in previous years.

Our VP – Seniors, Don Chard also deserves praise for his efforts this past year in ensuring the club did not inadvertently overlook this important and growing segment of our membership. Don also helped us manage our relationships with the Harbour District Soccer Association and, given a lengthy history of leadership within the soccer community, was always willing to conduct analysis and research into issues which were of interest to the Board. Late in the year a decision was made to re-vamp our senior teams so as to enable greater access to positions on these teams for former DU players. Modelled very much on the old CFL idea whereby a team had to have Canadian athletes, we will require that our senior men's and women's teams in future always have a minimum number of former DU youth players on their roster. We do this to ensure that our club is able to offer a lifetime program to its members. Don is planning to oversee the introduction of this concept in the coming year and will continue to be an advocate for the senior component of our programming.

My Observations & Priorities

My time, beyond observing and supporting where possible all this activity, has been focused towards improving how we do what we do. I have noticed that we depend on too few for too much, that we can be overly bureaucratic, that our policy framework is immature and unhelpful, that we tend to be focused on activity and busy-ness instead of deliverables and targeted effort. We sometimes lose sight of what is priority and become mired in cyclical, non-productive debate. We all mean well but at times trip over each other as we strive to deliver the programs and services we passionately believe in.

Some believe this is the standard operating paradigm for a volunteer based service organization. I do not and believe we can optimize and simplify our operation so that hero's are unnecessary, extreme acts redundant and personal fulfilment a standard outcome from our efforts.

To this end, I see that a current priority for the President of our organization is to lead in the overhaul of our organizational structure and of our governance and operational processes. Further, I see a role for our President

as leader in an all member effort to define a new vision of a desired future for our club so that we can all agree on what is priority and what is not. And, I see a need for a specific focus towards strengthening the volunteer base within our organization.

I have spoken to the Board about these objectives and am encouraged by their reaction and interest in pursuing them. Over time, and certainly as we continue to do what we have to do each year, improvements can and will be made and I look for the support of our membership as we make good governance and operational stability key objectives for our organization as it continues to mature and evolve.

Final Comments

The Dartmouth United Soccer Club is an impressive organization. Its difficulties earlier this year were regrettable but served as a “back to basics” call to action for our many leaders and volunteers. The result was significant success both on and off the field and with many proud to tell others of their association with our club. We exit the year then with significant positive momentum. We know there is much to do, room for improvement wherever you choose to look, but remain confident that working together we can continue to be one of the most prominent and successful soccer clubs in our country.

My personal thanks to all who contributed to the club over the past year and specifically for the support you provided me as your President.

Respectfully submitted



Paul A. Kent
President, DUSC

Secretary's Report

Introduction

It's been a challenging but productive year. When I first took on the responsibility, I can honestly say that I had no idea how much work was involved. And now here I am, one year and over 5,000 emails later.

So much has occurred, so much work has been done, and so much has been achieved that if I were to try and cover it all in detail this report would run to many pages. So I'm not going to!

Achievements

- Volunteer Screening Policy

With the addition of a declarative component we now have a clear, comprehensive policy that provides the proper protection to Board members, staff, and, above all, the children. By making the screening process declarative, the onus has been put on the volunteer to inform the organization, as opposed to the organization being required to investigate the volunteer.

- Computer Backups

Most of the information stored on Dartmouth United's computers is irreplaceable. This information was not being backed up. A system of regular back-ups to an external hard drive was implemented in February 2008.

- Organization of Meetings

Included here because organizing and scheduling meetings is a deceptively tricky and time consuming task. Scheduling each and every one is an achievement in itself! There were 13 Board Meetings held in 2008. All of them were scheduled to maximise participation and ensure that a quorum was achieved.

- Recording of Meetings

Comprehensive and detailed Minutes were produced for all Board meetings. An efficient and timely method of approving the Minutes was designed, implemented, and adopted¹.

- Record Keeping

Extensive records were produced for numerous organizational dealings, transactions, and activities. These documents, emails, etc. have been transferred to the Dartmouth United office for storage.

Challenges and Future Initiatives

- Community Outreach

Whilst not strictly in the Secretarial domain, a broadening of the Club's horizons would be beneficial. Dartmouth United has an opportunity to take the lead in Canada and join its European counterparts by embracing "Football For All" as part of its vision².

- Information Security

Access to Dartmouth United's information, especially parent and child information, needs to be raised to a higher level of security. Policy concerning the misuse of this information needs to be developed and enforced.

1 See Board Meeting Minutes of 6th January 2008.

2 See Board Meeting Minutes of 29th February – Item 16, 13th April – Item 5, 1st May – Item 10, and 1st September – Item 9.

- Creation and Revision of Club Policies

This subject is addressed repeatedly throughout this document. Suffice that I reiterate the need for the development of clear, comprehensive, and up-to-date Club policies.

- Distributed Information

All Club information should be stored on a central server. As it stands, due in large part to the nature of the beast, many important documents are scattered amongst, and reside solely upon, numerous personal computers. A system needs to be implemented to rectify this situation.

Finally, as I step down from the position of Secretary, I would like to thank all of my colleagues and fellow Board members. The amount of work they have put in throughout the year, often under difficult circumstances, has been astonishing. It has been an honour to work with you all. Special thanks goes to Wally Murphy, Brian Lane, and John McCabe for their courage, integrity, and unwavering support.

Respectfully submitted

Alan Parslow
Secretary, DUSC

Registrar's Report

It's been a busy but fruitful year on the registration front. Registration figures for the spring, summer, and winter seasons are listed in the following tables³.

Seasons

Spring

SPRING REGISTRATION NUMBERS				
	2008	2007	2006	2005
MEN				
Senior B	37	30	36	17
Rec.	23	25	18	21
Total Men	60	55	54	38
WOMEN				
Senior B	13	11	0	0
7-A-Side	14	0	34	0
Total Women	27	11	34	0
GRAND TOTAL	87	66	88	38

- The Seniors' spring season was back up to 2006 levels, with increases for both Men and Women.

Summer

SUMMER REGISTRATION NUMBERS					
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
MEN					
Senior A	22	22	26	22	22
Senior B	69	51	47	68	48
U23	0	0	23	0	0
Rec.	46	48	47	26	22
Total Men	137	121	143	116	92
WOMEN					
Senior A	21	20	21	21	18
Senior B	46	23	25	21	88
U23	0	25	0	0	0
7-A-Side	30	31	39	36	39
Total Women	97	99	85	78	145
BOYS					

³ All figures obtained from ITSportsnet database

SUMMER REGISTRATION NUMBERS					
U18	41	41	46	23	33
U16	54	55	61	50	57
U14	85	93	77	90	96
U12	132	136	137	140	123
U10	71	109	148	161	176
Total Boys	383	434	469	464	485
GIRLS					
U18	54	62	46	44	44
U16	98	95	95	79	78
U14	83	105	123	112	100
U12	119	138	125	136	148
U10	62	63	101	133	120
Total Girls	416	463	490	504	490
MINIS					
U8 Mixed	287	322	292	342	386
U6 Mixed	330	321	343	332	314
U5 Mixed	0	253	224	243	219
U4 Mixed	286	167	156	149	152
U3 Mixed	128	0	0	0	0
Total Minis	1,031	1,063	1,015	1,066	1,071
Total League⁴	2,064	2,180	2,202	2,228	2,283
CPP					
Boys U14	0	20	0	0	0
Boys U12	0	18	0	0	0
Boys U10	16	17	0	0	0
Girls U14	0	20	0	0	0
Girls U12	0	22	0	0	0
Girls U10	8	14	0	0	0
U10 Warm-Up	13	27	0	0	0
U8 Warm-Up	10	20	0	0	0
Total CPP	47	158	0	0	0
Grand Total	2,111	2,338	2,202	2,228	2,283

- Seniors numbers were up slightly with the return of the Men's Opa team at the B level.
- Youth registration continued to decline (particularly at the younger age groups) as our older players progress through the system. Boys registration has decreased by 21% since 2004, while Girls registration has decreased by 15%.

⁴ In 2008 & 2007, U12 league numbers include U10 Academy players.

- Mini numbers have been fairly steady and continue to account for almost 50% of our summer registrants. This year we adjusted the youngest age categories to align with the new school intake deadline of December 31st, adding a new U3 category (for children who turned 3 in 2008) and removing the U5 category. This allows children to play soccer with their classmates from Primary onwards and should reduce the number of “play down” requests we receive.
- We offered fewer Youth and Mini Warm-Up and CPP sessions this spring to accommodate earlier tryouts and practices for the summer teams.

Winter

WINTER REGISTRATION NUMBERS					
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
MEN					
Senior A	0	16	19	18	16
Senior B	49	33	34	45	17
Rec.	18	17	38	18	36
Total Men	67	66	91	81	69
WOMEN					
Senior A	13	14	15	13	33
Senior B	12	12	13	16	51
Total Women	25	26	28	29	84
BOYS					
U18	14	19	18	19	17
U16	50	32	34	39	17
U14	32	44	55	30	39
U12	31	34	36	30	32
U10	24	30	0	0	0
Total Boys	151	159	143	118	105
GIRLS					
U18	27	27	35	32	30
U16	57	63	55	53	45
U14	58	40	64	49	47
U12	24	34	45	25	35
U10	11	13	0	0	0
Total Girls	177	177	199	159	157
Total League	420	428	461	387	415
CPP					
Boys U14+	11	14	6	0	0
Boys U12	14	8	9	0	0
Boys U10	16	0	54	8	0
Girls U14	17	13	0	0	0

WINTER REGISTRATION NUMBERS					
Girls U12	11	9	0	0	0
Girls U10	7	0	0	3	0
Mixed U8	31	17	21	5	0
Mixed U6	16	9	14	0	0
Total CPP	123	70	104	16	0
Grand Total	543	498	565	403	415

- Our winter numbers remain strong. We gained a Men's B team (Opa) but lost our Senior A Men. U14 and U16 continue to be our largest Girls' categories, while our largest Boys' category has shifted from U14 to U16. CPP registration increased significantly, particularly at the Mini level.

Achievements

- As I'm discovering, surviving one registration season after another is an achievement in itself!
- We've made enormous strides in recovering overdue fees (some stretching back two or three seasons) and working proactively to identify and recover late payments. I'm pleased to say that we are now (knock wood!) almost completely up-to-date and do not expect to have to place any players "not in good standing" this winter due to non-payment of fees.
- We've streamlined the Registration Forms and created Information Sheets for Seniors and Minis/Youth. Colin Steeves designed a new CPP Brochure to help attract new registrants.

Challenges and Future Initiatives

- A large influx of late summer registrants (particularly Minis) made it extremely difficult to create teams, find coaches, and book field time so close to the beginning of the season. Kudos to the Mini VP, age group coordinators, and staff for their stamina and fancy footwork! Clearly, our \$10 late fee is insufficient; we need to find other ways to promote early registration, including enhanced advertising (like Ed McDormand's wonderful posters) and greater financial incentives.
- The continuing decline in our summer Youth registrants requires insight and attention.
- Many of DU's policies and procedures are outdated, necessitating exceptions and work-arounds. In my second year as Registrar, I will work with others to revamp these documents, particularly those concerning registration, refunds, tryouts, and team placement.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff (particularly our wonderful administrator, Dorothy Ogilvie), my fellow volunteers (including our ITSportsNet liaison, Maureen MacIntyre), and DU's membership for their support during the past year.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Kate Needler
Registrar, DUSC

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

Dartmouth United has seen substantial change over the past year. Implementing changes to the Clubs spending habits has been a significant concern and has consumed much of the Board's time in attempting to achieve a balanced budget and place the Club on a recovery path to regain its once enviable financial position.

The following are the main financial issues that were faced by the Club this year and actions taken to resolve them:

- The Club has been overspending over the past few years which has eroded its financial position and which ultimately forced Dartmouth United to use reserve funds to pay expenses during the 2006/2007 fiscal year. This resulted in our \$50,000 GIC being converted into cash which was used to fund the Club's chequing account. As incoming treasurer for the period 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, I recommend that monies be set aside next year to rebuild a reserve fund. A small GIC of approximately \$10,000 is recommended to provide emergency funds to operate the Club.
- The Club's chequing account balance dipped to a historical low level in February 2008 illustrating that the Club's Equity had eroded substantially in recent years. The Board recognized immediate action was needed to curtail spending and in February decided to take action and eliminate proposed expenditures for a full time technical director. In addition, coaches honorariums and plans for increasing office staff were eliminated. Efforts were made to renegotiate the expensive lease with DU's landlord, however they were unsuccessful. It was decided to hire Colin Steeves as part time technical director and his proposed budget of \$50,000 for spring and summer program staff was approved by the Board.
- With respect to bookkeeping practices, a few years ago DU changed the way revenue and expenses were recorded. This practice, which is referred to as accrual accounting, was adopted to facilitate the preparation of financial statements (specifically, a healthy looking balance sheet) that would be required by financial institutions in the event DU sought financing for the contemplated construction of a new indoor facility. Since the new indoor facility is not being actively pursued, the Board has made the decision to revert back to Cash Based accounting methods, which they believe is more appropriate to the needs of the Club and its members.. For example, under accrual accounting our team equipment and uniforms purchases were being treated as Club assets and were being depreciated over time. This is of no real benefit to the Club since our equipment and uniforms are of little use to other organizations and would be of little economic value to the Club . I have instructed the bookkeeper to make the necessary changes to reflect the financial statements on a Cash Based accounting method and Phil Wilson has provided her with instruction on the proper accounting procedure to be used. At this time we have changed over to a Cash based system and a short analysis has shown that there is a difference of approximately \$3,302 in our reported end of financial year Net Income when comparing the two accounting systems. In the end, this change has had little effect on the current year results (virtually revenue/expense neutral) but has had a material effect on the Balance Sheet as the assets are removed off the books. The procedure does not affect our overall Cash position and "real" Equity.

Budget Review

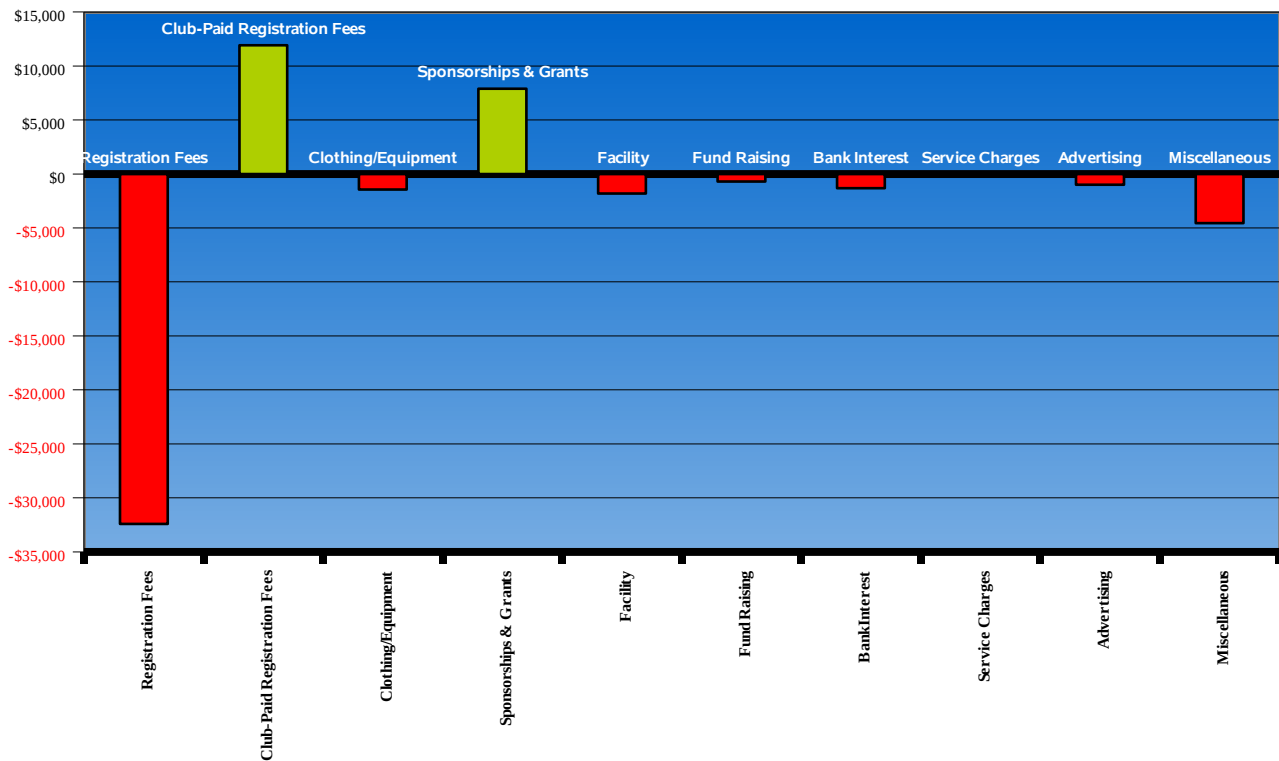
This past year saw major deviations from the proposed budget put forward by the previous treasurer. These deviations were necessary to prevent further overspending and also to provide a realistic picture of revenues that the Club receives from Sponsorship, Bank interest, etc. Actual amounts fell dramatically short of expectations

set as presented in the budget. The Club experienced a \$32,419 reduction in revenue from registration despite increasing summer and winter fees. This was further exasperated by a shortfall of \$9,421 in budgeted revenue from Facility rental, Fund Raising, Bank Interest, Advertising and miscellaneous. The resulting shortfall in revenue was partly offset by recovering a receivable amount of \$10,000 from the Premiership Men’s summer 2007 team which is recorded in “Club Paid Registration Fees”. The Club was also active in raising unbudgeted sponsorship monies. Our shortfall in expected revenue was therefore only \$23,476.

Expenses were reduced wherever possible in an attempt to balance the budget. Wages and Salaries were reduced by not hiring a full time technical director and replacing our office assistant with part time staff. This resulted in savings to the Club of approx \$29,242. General Expenses were over budget by approximately 5% or \$17,984 and this was partly due to an unexpected expense for a new website as the existing website experienced a number of total failures shortly before the summer season began. The new website was designed by *ImmediaC* and is being currently implemented. The expense is recorded in “Telephone and Internet” and “Professional Services”. In addition there was increased expenses associated with field and turf rentals which resulted in \$14,736 over budget.

The resulting Net Income for 2007/2008 fiscal year is \$9,163.

Dartmouth United Soccer Club
 SHORTFALL in Actual Revenue
 vs Budget 2007-2008



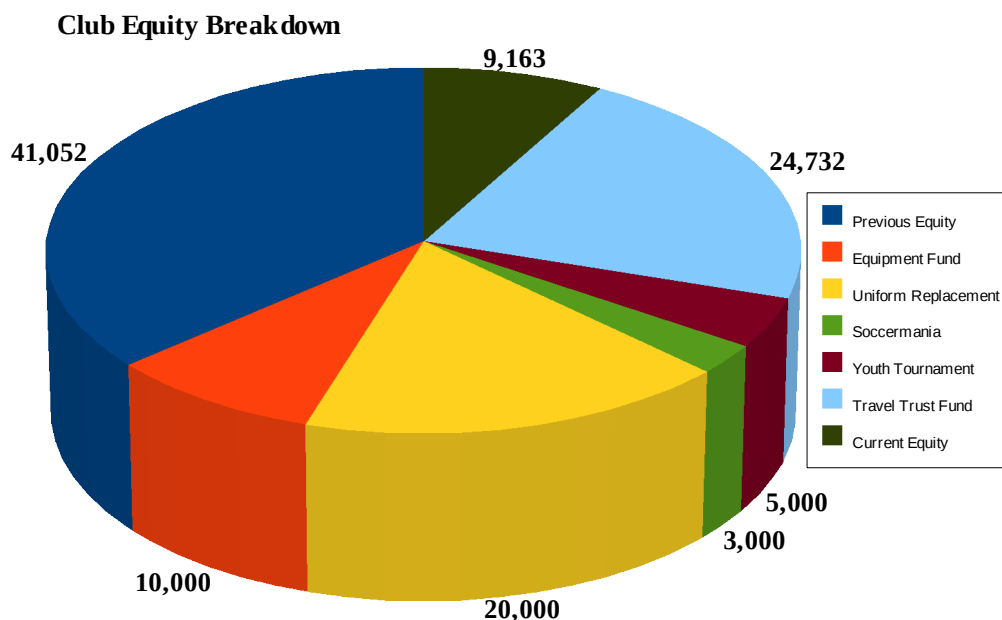
Balance Sheet – End of Year

The balance sheet of the Club consists simply of Assets and Liabilities. Since the Club does not own any property, our real assets are petty cash and monies that are in our Chequeing Accounts at the end of the year. These amount total \$114,369. Any receivables that have not yet been collected such as \$1,453 that is owed by the Senior Premiership Men’s team are also treated as assets. Our total assets at the end of October 2008 amount to \$115,823. (Team equipment and uniforms have in the past been counted as assets, however, this year we have decided to remove them off the balance sheet for reasons previously noted).

Our Current liabilities amount to employee payroll deductions that are payable and this is \$2,845 as of October 31st 2008.

Our Club Equity at the end of this fiscal year is therefore the \$112,947. An analysis of the Club Equity accounts was undertaken and it was found that these were unrealistically presented at the AGM in 2007. This year, I have allocated funds to provide a realistic picture of our financial position especially with regards to identifying funds for operating the Club through the months of November, December, January and February. Last year the Club's Chequeing account declined by nearly \$60,000 during this period due to continued payment of rent and staff wages and various miscellaneous expenses. This year these essential “operating funds” will be extracted from both the “Club Equity-Previous Years” and “Current Equity” accounts which combined, provide an allowance of approx \$50,000 to operate the Club until Spring registration provides more revenue.

The Balance of our Equity is in modest replacement funds for uniforms and equipment, tournament start up funds and the Travel Trust Fund. The latter account of \$24,731 protects monies that are awarded to teams attending National, Provincial, and International tournaments.



Proposed Budget 2008-2009

The proposed budget for the upcoming year is presented in *Appendix A* and reflects the same general financial picture as the actuals of 2007-2008.

Respectfully submitted

Brian Lane
Treasurer, DUSC

VP Senior's Report

Introduction

Definitions: (1) “soccer – the beautiful game.” (2) Soccer: a gentlemen’s game played by ruffians, while rugby is a ruffians’ game played by gentlemen.

Both are true to some extent. Soccer inspires incredible passion on the part of its fans. In one case, in 2005, the pilots of a chartered jet carrying 289 Gambian soccer fans faked the need for an emergency landing in Peru so passengers could watch their nation’s team play a key match in a nearby city.

Overview of Dartmouth United's Senior Operations

This summer twelve senior teams registered with Dartmouth United. Those teams represented approximately 200 players. Some of these players have been playing with Dartmouth United (or predecessor clubs like Caledonia and Woodlawn), since they played mini-soccer. On the men’s side, there was the men’s 1st division team, three senior B teams, and two senior C teams (three, if you count the DU-Masters team). On the women’s side there was the women’s 1st division team, two senior B teams, and two ladies 7-a-side teams. A number of these teams play indoor soccer, and in spring leagues.

The Year in Review

Women's Teams

Success must be measured in more than just games won and games lost. But certainly the DU women’s 1st division team did very well this summer. This young team, coached by Jeff Aucoin, finished the season with twelve wins and only three losses. Sarah Drake led the league with eleven goals., and the team led the league in scoring with 36 goals. The team lost a heartbreaking 1-0 game to Scotia in the NSSL playoffs.

The senior B women’s teams, coached by Dave Broom and Erin Schauss, enjoyed their summer. Dave’s team moved to the senior B league after a year in the CISL’s U-23 division.

Dartmouth United has two senior C women’s teams, the Divas and the Rebels. They play in the Citadel Women’s 7-A-Side Soccer League. The Divas finished 7th in the 12-team 2nd division, with a record of 5-4-2, while the Rebels finished 11th in the 14-team first division. Thank you to Janet Farrell and Lisa MacIssac for all their work in leading these teams.

Men's Teams

The men’s 1st division team, under Adam Baggs, struggled with injuries this summer, and got off to a slow start. But the team improved towards the end of the season, and managed to finish in fourth place among the Nova Scotia teams in the league. Although the team qualified for the league playoffs, it was eliminated in the first round.

Two of the three Senior B men’s teams that played in the Halifax Soccer League had winning records this summer. DUSC, formerly known as DU-Hublely, after the late Phil Hubley, was run by Drew Turner. The team finished sixth in a seventeen-team league, while DU-Chard finished in seventh place with a record of 8-7-1. Gabe Manuge led DU-Chard with a league-leading seventeen goals. Gabe is a product of the DU youth system. Opa, the third DU team in the HSL finished in tenth place, with a record of 6-7-1.

Last but not least, are the men's C teams, DU-Ashley and DU-Maxwell's Plum. They play in the Metropolitan Senior Men's Soccer League, known more commonly as the men's "rec" league. DU-Ashley played in the Upper Division of the league, while DU-Maxwell's Plum played in the Lower Division. Both teams have had more successful seasons in terms of their win-loss record.

The DU-Masters, played in the Masters Division of the MSMSL. They finished second in the summer, and won the silver medal in the Masters Provincial Championship played here in Dartmouth.

The Future

There is considerable potential for growth in the senior division of Dartmouth United. The men's B and C leagues continue to accept new teams. There are two things that must be done to realize that potential. The first thing is to find some people who will be committed to organize and look after these teams. The second thing is to inform players who complete their eligibility for youth of the opportunities to play senior soccer. Commitment can be a problem with 18-20 year-old players, however, as many are students who work at jobs that interfere with soccer. Nevertheless, better communications with players on both the men's and women's side, as they finished playing U-18, should result in the retention of more of these young players.

It would also be useful to have representatives from both the men's and women's sides to work with the VP for senior soccer to build a more effective division.

Soccer Books

Anyone interested in reading about soccer and its history will enjoy reading the following books:

Andrew Ward. Football's Strangest Matches (Robson Books, London, 1999).

Foer, Franklin. How Soccer Explains the World (Harper Collins, 2004).

Respectfully submitted

Don Chard
VP Seniors, DUSC

VP Girls' and Technical Report

Senior Programs

Dartmouth United had a senior membership of 234 players in the summer of 2008.

Premier Men (1 team)	22	Premier Women (1 team)	21
Men A (3 teams)	69	Women A (2 teams)	46
Men B (2 teams)	46	Women 7 Aside (2 teams)	30

Premier Women:

Dartmouth United Super City Windows had a dominant regular season, finishing 1st overall in the league, with the closest team 7 points behind. In addition, Sarah Drake won the Golden Boot Award (with 11 goals) while Jeff Aucoin won the Coach of the Year. Unfortunately they lost 1-0 to Scotia in the semi-finals of the play-offs. However, the future looks bright for this team as we have 5 Canada Games players on the roster, and a strong crop of female players moving up in the youth system.

Premier Men:

The men's team had an up-and-down season, and had moments where they looked like one of the top teams in the province. While it was a young group, they were also plagued with injuries for much of the season, and as a result had some troubles performing at a consistent level. Finishing fourth out of the NS teams, Dartmouth United made it into provincials and put out a strong effort in the semi-finals. While they lost the game 2-0, they had some good chances to win, and made for a great game against an undefeated Dunbrack team.

Our Women's A teams played competitively this year, as Dartmouth Dream finished 2nd in their division, while the Blues earned a birth into the play-offs after winning a divisional crossover.

Our Men's A teams also did well in a very tough Halifax Soccer League. DUSC Turner finished the highest out of the three teams, and it consists mostly of former club Tier 1 players. Also worth noting, Gabriel Manuge was the top scorer in the summer league with 17 goals.

The B level was highlighted by Don Chard's team. After qualifying for provincials, they narrowly lost in a shoot-out to one of the top teams in the league.

Thank you to all our players, coaches and managers of our senior teams. It takes a lot of commitment and dedication for these teams to exist and perform at a high level.

Finding coaches at this level is an ongoing challenge for all clubs, and we are exploring ways to secure committed coaches and a proper management structure.

Another issue is ensuring that our players transition from U18 to the senior level. While part of this drop off is inevitable (as many players find other commitments at this stage in their life), there are many players that retire from soccer at 18 because they have no team to play on. Dartmouth United is aware of this problem, and is committed to ensuring that graduating players are educated about all their options at the senior level.

Youth Programs

This spring we had a new initiative to ensure all teams had the ability to get in a number of training sessions before their season began. We had these sessions at the Burnside fields, and because we split the area into six different sections, it only amounted to a small payment per player. This allowed all coaches and players to get adequately prepared before the season started, and it enabled a number of teams to get off to a strong start. At the same time, while we had a few teams without coaches, it allowed those teams to get proper training sessions with technical staff until coaches were recruited. So regardless of the situation, we ensured everyone was practising at least once/week well before the season started (1 month).

Also, once grass fields opened in June, we had 4 technical staff assigned to providing coaching support to 8 teams per week at the youth level. We piloted a new initiative – divisional coaches. Their responsibilities were to provide technical support to all teams within their assigned division. While we received positive feedback from the teams with these staff, we learned a few lessons as well:

- Since these technical staff also had teams of their own, it was a large commitment for every coach involved.
- Some teams were getting technical sessions every 2 weeks – this was more than enough for many teams, while at the same time we had some teams not getting enough support in other divisions.
- For next year, our budget is set up to provide technical support to all youth teams for one practice every 3 weeks.

Dartmouth United also recognizes the challenges in transitioning youth players from U10-U12, and U12-U14. There has been a trend in the past where we have a drop off in numbers as players get older, and we are looking at ways to address this issue. Our budget for the next year currently allows for a Mini Technical Director, as well as a significant increase in technical support for all teams and coaches. Our expectation is that we can allow for more players to have a positive experience at the younger levels, increasing the likelihood that they will stay involved in the sport.

Dartmouth United had a youth membership of 615 players in the summer of 2008.

U18 Boys (2 Teams)	41	U18 Girls (3 Teams)	54
U16 Boys (3 Teams)	54	U16 Girls (5 Teams)	98
U14 Boys (5 Teams)	85	U14 Girls (5 Teams)	83
U12 Boys (6 Teams)	98	U12 Girls (6 Teams)	102

NSSL Teams

After finishing with only 20 goals against, our U14 T1 boys team established themselves as the best defensive team in their league. They capped off their season by getting to the provincial finals and losing out to a very strong South Shore team in a close battle.

On the girls side, our U16 T1 team clinched their trip to Nationals after winning in the Provincial semis against Scotia. Although they lost to County in a close final (3-2), they still went on to represent Nova Scotia as a #2 seed at the National Tournament in Cape Breton.

At Nationals, the team was placed in a tough group, but was able to hold their own against some of the top teams in Canada. The girls capped off their season with a 4-0 win against the Yukon to finish 9th in the country.

One issue at the T1 level is our ability to attract and maintain qualified coaches on a regular basis. One option for

2009 is to provide all T1 coaches with a stipend in order to allow the technical committee to begin to set standards for these coaches. It is proposed that an additional fee be tacked on to the T1 registration fees to cover the cost of this stipend. We believe this is a necessary adjustment that will allow us to compete with local clubs for qualified coaches at the higher levels.

Youth T1 Results

Team	Provincials	League
Boys		
U14	2	3
U16	0	8
U18	0	5
Girls		
U14	0	5
U16	2	2
U18	0	7

Our U18 T1 girls team struggled somewhat, and it was partially the result of a low turnout for tryouts. While we still fielded a competitive team of 14 players, we also set up a call-up schedule to help them out, communicating with the coaches of other capable teams (U16 T1, U18 T2A and U16 T2A) to ensure they would always have enough players at their games.

The organization behind these call-ups was a big help for the players, but we also feel this situation was a bit of an anomaly – the result of an extremely elite group of U16s where many of them skipped U18 to play at the Premier level in order to challenge themselves further. While we don't expect this situation to arise on a regular basis, we will be more prepared to deal with it if it happens again in the future.

CISL Teams

At the youth T2 boys level, we had a number of highlights during the season. Our U12 teams performed at a very high level, as Allan Langlois' U12 B team finished first overall in the league and provincials. Our U12 A team had a strong season as well, finishing second overall in the league and provincials. Also worth noting was Bill Judge's U14 T2B team. While they had a very strong regular season, they were unlucky not to get to the medal rounds in provincials. Rob McVarnock's U14 A team suffered a similar fate, by finishing first in the league, and then losing a close battle in provincial qualifiers.

On the girls side, we had a number of competitive teams, having 6 of them qualify for provincials. Brad Smith's U14 A team had a great year, and capped it off by winning the gold medal in provincials. We also had two other B teams finish first overall in the league, but narrowly missed out on the medal rounds at provincials. Within our U12 girls division, Colin Steeves' A team finished second in the league, as did Paul Sarty's B team. Also worth noting was Paul Kent's U18 T2 team, as they finished 3rd at Provincials, and Dan McKeen's U16 A team (3rd overall in league play).

Girls			
Team	Coach	Provincials	League
U18 T2	Kent	3	1 - div
U18 T2	MacKenzie	0	1 - div
U16 T2A	McKeen	0	3
U16 T2A	McDermott	0	8
U16 T2B	Grandmaison	0	13
U16 T2B	Spruin	Qualified	1
U14 T2A	Smith	1	1
U14 T2A	MacNeil	0	7
U14 T2B	Jolley	Qualified	1
U14 T2B	Doyle	0	16
U12 A	Steeves	4	2
U12 B	Sarty	4	2
U12 B	Bornais	0	10
U12 8S	Rayner	n/a	8 - div
U12 8S	MacNeil	n/a	10 - div
U12 8S	Carreiro	n/a	11 - div

Boys			
Team	Coach	Provincials	League
U18 T2	Brown	0	4
U16 T2A	Murphy	0	6
U16 T2B	Morrison	0	10
U14 T2A	McVarnock	0	1
U14 T2A	Broussard	0	6
U14 T2B	Judge	Qualified	2
U14 T2B	Fougere	0	7
U12 T2A	McGinnis	2	2
U12 T2B	Langlois	1	1
U12 T2B	Fricker	0	7
U12 8S	Van Dyke	n/a	4
U12 8S	Sangster	n/a	6
U12 8S	Thompson	n/a	9

Tier 2 Results

One initiative we implemented this year was a change to the structure for how our A teams were selected when we fielded more than one team in the same division. In previous years, we had balanced teams according to age. This has a number of benefits, including keeping many friends on the same team, and it also allows the group to stay together as they move up the youth system.

However, this year we decided to make our selections according to skill level. The purpose of this is to ensure we always have players with similar abilities playing together. This allows them to push each other better to further their development. If we were to continue to pick teams based on age, it creates a much wider variance of skill level. This has a negative effect on the weaker players, because often they have a tougher time keeping up in training, and it also hurts the top players because they are not being challenged by players with similar abilities.

At the same time, because most other clubs are also picking their A teams according to this philosophy, it allows us to stay competitive with them.

Mini Programs

Although mini results are not generally recorded, one success story of note was that of Derrick Bowser's Academy U10 Boys team, who ended the season strong by finishing 1st in the play-offs. This is actually the second year in a row where this team finished 1st, so it is definitely a positive sign of things to come in our boys youth division.

While we have had our U10 Academy programs up and running for a few years now, there is a large variance in the amount/quality of coaching currently spread across our mini teams. This is one of Dartmouth United's highest priorities as we approach this spring, and we are proposing a number of steps to deal with it.

Our first step would be the hiring of a Mini-Technical Director. This person would be responsible for

establishing some consistency to the programs we offer at the mini level, and also ensuring that the coaches get more support on a regular basis. We feel that if we can have more technical staff help out with the practices at this level, it will be much easier to transition parents into the coaching world. As a result, recruiting volunteers at this level would become less of a problem.

We are also proposing the implementation of an online curriculum for use by all coaches. We hope to have it available for use on the website before the summer season starts. At the same time, it is proposed that the coaching clinics offered by the Technical Director next spring will emphasize how to use this program. This would be a very valuable tool that will allow coaches to set a theme for practice and then use example sessions based on the age and skill level of the players.

Participation in Provincial Programs

U12 (Regional Training Centre)

The Regional Training Centre is one of the first steps for a player to become identified and involved in the Nova Scotia Provincial Program. At the U12 level, players are classified into separate regions, and SNS coaches attempt to select an all-star training group for each location. For Harbour East, the group is made up of clubs from Dartmouth United, Cole Harbour, Bedford, Sackville, Scotia and East Hants.

Dartmouth United placed 16 players into the RTC program last year, which is tied for first when compared to other clubs across the Harbour East Region.

RTC Harbour East Results

Club	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Players	%	Players	%	Players	%
Bedford	3	12	3	19	6	15
Cole Harbour	1	4	0	0	1	2
Dartmouth United	9	36	7	44	16	39
Sackville	1	4	1	6	2	5
Scotia	11	44	5	31	16	39
Total	25	100	16	100	41	100

U13-U16 (Provincial Program)

The provincial program starts at the U13 level, and attempts to group together the top players from across the province in order for them to train and compete against stronger players. There are teams at the U13, U14, U15 and U16 level, and players obtain the opportunity to compete against provincial all-star programs from other provinces on an annual basis.

Dartmouth United had 27 players involved in the provincial program during the past year. We are ranked second only to Halifax County in terms of the percentage of players we have in the program when compared to all other clubs (18%).

Worth noting is that we have a large number of strong young players just entering the program this fall, which is a positive sign for the future of the club. As of right now, we have 11 total players at the U13 provincial level

(combined boys and girls) which makes up 23% of the program and ranks 1st overall across all other clubs.

Provincial Program Results

Club	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Players	%	Players	%	Players	%
Bedford	8	10	4	5	12	8
Cape Breton	6	8	1	1	7	5
Cole Harbour	0	0	1	1	1	1
Dartmouth United	11	14	16	22	27	18
Dunbrack	11	14	3	4	14	9
Halifax City	7	9	5	7	12	8
Halifax County	10	13	21	29	31	21
Highland	2	3	2	3	4	3
Scotia	7	9	15	21	22	15
South Shore	4	5	0	0	4	3
Valley	12	15	5	7	17	11
Total	78	100	73	100	151	100

Canada Games

The Canada Games team is the last step in the provincial program. It selects an all-star group of players at the U18 level and travels away to play against other teams from across the country. This program enters its own team in the Premier NSSL and trains/competes at an intense level for 1 year before entering the event.

Dartmouth United placed 9 players into this program in 2008, which makes up 21% of the total players selected, and is second only to Halifax County. At the same time, we have a few players on the boys and girls side that are still training with the team and being considered for the final selections in the spring of 2009.

Canada Games Results

Club	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Players	%	Players	%	Players	%
Bedford	2	9	0	0	2	5
Dartmouth United	3	14	6	29	9	21
Dunbrack	0	0	1	5	1	2
Halifax City	5	23	2	10	7	16
Halifax County	4	18	7	33	11	26
Highland	5	23	0	0	5	12
Scotia	0	0	3	14	3	7
Valley	3	14	2	10	5	12
Total	22	100	21	100	43	100

Coaching Development

Club Coaching Guidelines

With the introduction of academy programs across most clubs as of 2008, the game in Nova Scotia is getting faster and more technical. As a result of these changes, the need arises to be able to recruit and develop more technically competent coaches in order to keep up with the increased pace of the game. Beginning in 2010, SNS intends to implement license requirements for head coaches, specifically in the NSSL.

Dartmouth United will also make every effort to set standards in the coaching community, and intends to set the following guidelines for its coaches in 2009:

Club Coaching Guidelines

Level	License
Senior	
Premier	CSA B Licence Part 1
Senior B	Full Community Coach
Senior 7 AS	Community Coach Senior
Youth	
Tier 1	Pre - B
Tier 2 (U14-U18)	Full Community Coach
Tier 2 U12	Community Coach Youth
Mini	
Academy	Pre - B
Mini U10	Community Coach Children
Mini U6-U8	Mini Certificate

Current Needs

Assuming that the number of teams fielded in the summer of 2008 is close to what we need in 2009, our coaching requirements would be as follows.

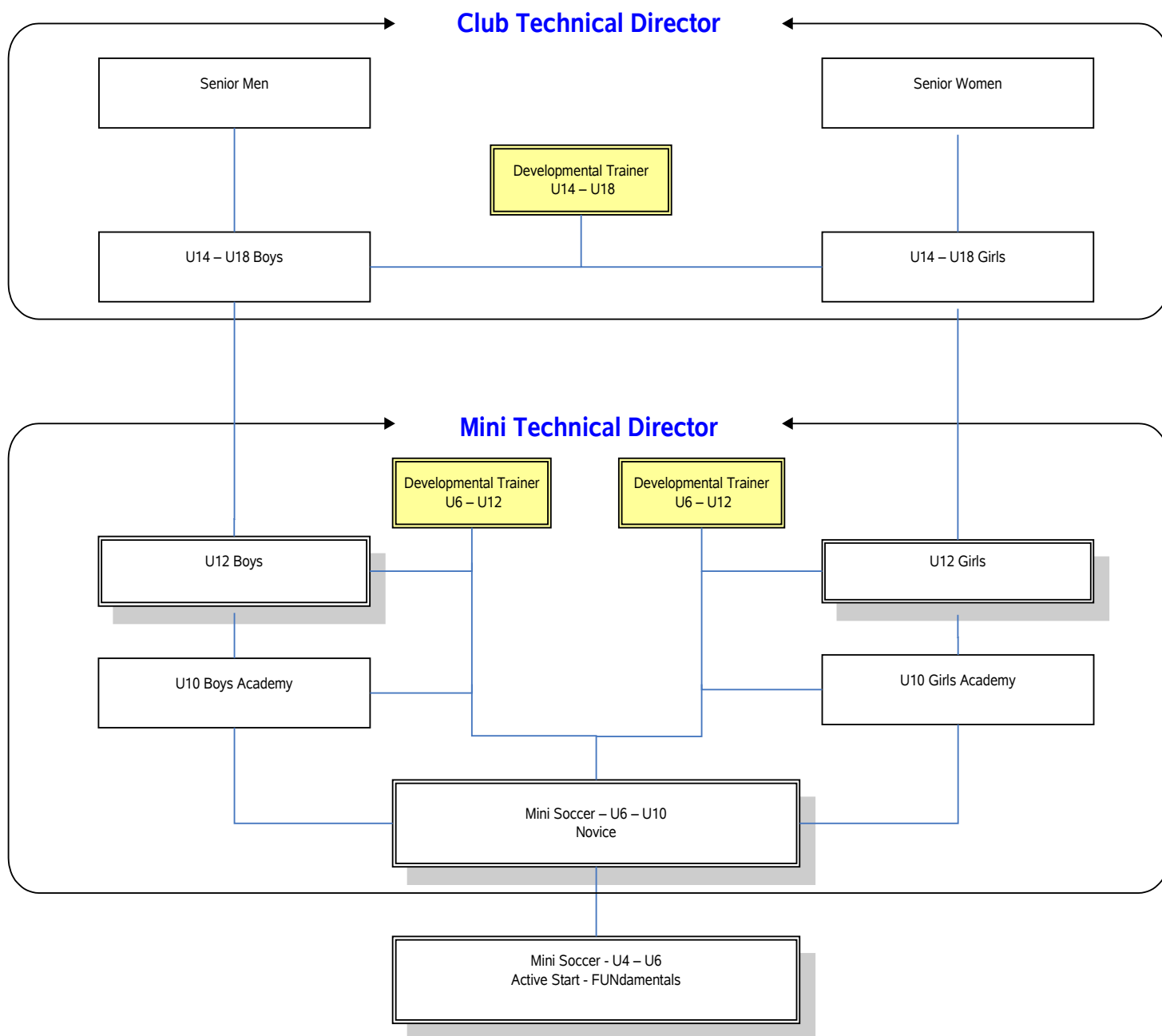
Current Needs for Qualified Coaches

License	2008		2009	
	Required	Actual	Anticipated	Potential Shortfall
CSA B Part 1	2	7	2	0
Pre - B	8	2	8	6
Community Coach Full	17	13	20	7
Community Coach Youth	12	3	12	9
Community Coach Children	9	8	10	2
Mini Certificate	49	47	50	3

Development of Coaches

Dartmouth United intends to make it a high priority to help our coaches to obtain their certifications, and provide a positive experience for their teams. One measure of our success is the amount of qualified coaches we have in the club. If we can reach the above guidelines, it will be a large step towards ensuring that all teams will have appropriately qualified coaches in place, which means a better experience for all.

As referenced above, we implemented a technical structure this past year using Divisional coaches. While feedback was overly positive, we are also looking to involve more of our volunteers with these support sessions in the following year. As a result, we recently changed the structure of our technical staff in order to better serve a broader range of our coaches. We are looking to adopt this new model in the spring of 2009. The structure is shown as follows:



As shown above, our goal is to have the Mini Technical Director joined by two other trainers in order to start to implement some consistency in the types of practices we are running at the younger levels.

In addition to a change in structure, we intend to take a number of other actions in order to put a high priority on the development of our coaches. One other item is the implementation of an online curriculum, set up for access by all coaches in the club. Users will be able to search by theme and view a large amount of example sessions dependant on the age/skill level/gender of the team. It will even allow coaches to view different sessions based on whether it involves the indoor/outdoor season. This is a highly valuable tool, and we intend to implement this before the summer season starts to give our coaches an extra edge on the competition.

We are also offering 5 coaching courses in Dartmouth from January until the end of March. These will be put on together by Technical Director and the Coaching Education Officer at Soccer NS. The times will be flexible, as some will occur on a weekly basis, and others will take place over the course of a weekend. Overall we will be offering 2 Youth, 2 Children, and 1 Senior Course. This does not include other courses that will be offered at SNS, and across the province. Please check the website for details as we get closer to 2009.

Conclusion

There are many measures of success in a soccer club. Although our first instinct is to think about how many victories we obtained, the main pathway to our success always begins and ends with the player. If we are focused on teaching and improving soccer skills, the results will generally take care of themselves.

We feel that despite a crunch on the amount of technical resources available to us this past year, the club was able to put a great display on the field, and enjoy a number of success stories. At the same time, we are completely dedicated to improving these successes each and every year, and ensuring that our players have a positive experience because they were involved in our program.

Respectfully submitted

Colin Steeves
Technical Director, DUSC

and

Dan McKeen
VP Girls, DUSC

VP Boys Report

Introduction

The summer season was a great success on the boys side not only with the results on the field but off the field, as well. Success can not be measured only in winning but in the enjoyment of the game. This is something positive that I heard from all Teams from U10 Academy to U18 T1. This can be attributed to the great commitment put forward starting with the wonderful volunteer Coach all the way down through the Team's parent volunteers – the bigger the volunteer pool the greater the Team success. Thank you to all the Coaches that stepped forward your commitment was invaluable to those kids having a great soccer experience!!

I would like to thank the coordinators Barb Houlahan and Karla Hewitt for all your help throughout the year. Your organization and quick adjustments during the tryouts were extremely helpful in making these sessions go as smoothly as possible. Great job! Would also like to thank Milton Vacon for his time as U16 Coordinator who stepped down due to work commitments and welcome Gilberte Melanson who has stepped up to be U18 Coordinator. At this time the U16 Coordinator position is not filled

Tryouts and Team Selection Process

- Teams were selected much earlier which had many positives, coaches for all teams in place and practising their teams before the season, team planning and organization at A - B levels started before the beginning of the season.
- Practice time set up in May on the turf for ALL teams to prepare for the season not only gave the teams time to prepare but helped the TD in identifying coaching help and seeing the players.
- For the winter season summer Coaches were used at all levels to help with team selection.
- Coaches easy to use evaluation form developed to be submitted to VP and TD at the end of the winter season to be used to help in evaluations going forward.
- The whole tryout and team selection process is being re-evaluated and will need to be revamped to clearly define the process to the membership.

On Field Team Successes

- Provincial Champions - Allan Langlois's U12 2B
- Great showings at Provincials by Jaimie McGinnis at U12 2A, Bill Judge (coach of the year) at U14 2B and Mike Langille U14 T1.
- We had many successes from all teams at all levels:
 - In U18 both Colin Steeves and Steve Brown's crew did a great job with young teams.
 - In U16 Sandy Morrison struggled with numbers and did a wonderful job of creating an enjoyable season for the committed players he had. Myself and Peter Field had very young teams that played very competitive and look well placed for next year.
 - In U14 we had too many players for 3 teams but very tight numbers for the 4 teams we had. Brad Fougere, Bill Judge, Rob McVarnock, and Peter Brousard did a wonderful job working together with call-ups to make sure of the teams numbers – all teams in this division had winning records.
 - In U12, besides Allan and Jaimie's team successes, we heard lots of good things from the Travis Fricker, LeoVan Dyke, Angela Sangster, and Blaine Thompson's teams – in fact Travis's team only lost to Allan's team 1-0 in provincial playdowns.

- In U10 Academy Derek Bowser's team won everything they were in, including their league, and Brice Walsh did a wonderful job in developing their group to follow in Derek's success.

Equipment Return

Equipment return continues to be a challenge. We have had return days with volunteers and paid staff waiting and waiting for teams to return gear and have very little returns. Teams will need to better organize their returns in the future and return it on return days. We spend a lot of paid hours on returning equipment one piece at a time.

Registration Numbers

We have good consistent registration numbers at U14-U18. Where we are losing numbers is in the lower age levels at U10-U12. We need to look at this transition age to better understand what is the reason for the major decrease in this age level from 2004. See Registrar's report.

Coaching Training

We are looking at addressing this in the TD report with training sessions for existing volunteers and future possible coaching candidates to bring their qualifications up. Also, we are looking at having a coaching criteria and drills on the new website for coaches to follow and reference.

Concluding Remarks

It was a great yet challenging year of soccer. I look forward to an even better year of soccer as we continue to improve communications at all levels of the Club. We are one Team working for the best interest of all. Thank you to all who volunteered throughout the year !

Respectfully submitted

Wally Murphy
VP Boys, DUSC

Geoff Howell Memorial Tournament Report

The Dartmouth United Geoff Howell Memorial is a Tier 2 tournament and is sanctioned by Soccer Nova Scotia. The tournament is divided into Divisions based on age, sex, and level of play from U10 Academy to U18 boys and girls in both A and B performance levels. This year, our tournament hosted 67 teams from 17 different clubs from across Nova Scotia and beyond.

Despite the wet weather, and some last minute rescheduling of games due to field closures, the tournament was a success. The *Soccer Pro Soccer Skills Competition* created by Ian Kent of *Soccer Pro*, took components from both the Canadian and World Championships was very popular and attracted many skilled athletes.

This year, thanks to our sponsors, *ImmediaC* and *Medicine in Motion*, the Dartmouth United Geoff Howell Memorial awarded high quality trophies in two Divisions: U10 Academy and U14 division B.



Special thanks go to Ed MacDormand, one of Nova Scotia's leading graphic designers, for custom designing the 2008 medals, artwork for the tickets, posters, and website graphics. Last, but not least, many thanks to all the anonymous volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this event successful.

Respectfully submitted

Blaine Thompson
Director, DUSC

Note: The tournament financial statements can be found in *Appendix A*.

Mini Referee Report

Objective

- Assign mini refs to U10 boys and girls soccer to help prepare players and coaches for full field soccer i.e. CISL, NSSL
- Expose young soccer players (age 12 – 15) to refereeing as a start to becoming a certified referee in the Provincial Referee Association

Thank-you to Mary Britten for all her assistance this summer.

Our referee list of 20 refs included returning refs from 2007 and new refs in 2008. Prior to the season Steven Barkhouse (a senior experienced referee) conducted a two part instructional course. 2- 3 hour classroom and 1- 2 hour field. When I received the schedule from Mary Britten I assigned referees as they were available. Their schedule for play on their league team took priority. This included 90 games at Shannon field Monday – Thursday inclusive from late June until the end of August. Also Shannon Mini Tournament 89 games and Eastern Passage's *Soccer by the Sea* 100 games.

Financial Report (\$)

Opening balance	85
Deposits (DUSC)	2,000
Deposits (Soccermania)	890
Deposits (\$10 referee course fee)	60
Total Deposits	3,035
Referee Payments (Shannon Mon – Thurs)	780
Referee Payments (Soccermania)	890
Referee Payments (Soccer by the Sea ⁵)	800
Steven Barkhouse (Referee Instructor)	60
Return of excess funds to DUSC	448
Total Expenses	2,978
Balance	57 (being held in account for 2009)

Respectfully submitted

Greg Milner
Referee Liaison, DUSC

5 Paid at field by EPSC Assignor

VP Minis Report

Mini Division

The 2008 mini soccer program had a very successful season with 1,200 participants in age groups from U3 to U10. The mini division as a whole, faces many challenges such as finding coordinators to create and manage the many teams required for each age group and finding enough coaches and the right coach for each team. This being my first year as VP of the mini division I would like to take this time to thank all the Mini Coordinators, Dorothy, Peter, coaches, our club TD as well as Jamie McGinnis who often helped out giving some training sessions to the coaches of the younger teams. I certainly would not have been able to face the challenges without their guidance and support along the way. It has been a privilege to work with this group. My Mini Coordinators this season were:

- U3 – Gennie Bellefontaine
- U4 – Nina Paliwal, Susanne Peck, Debra Smith
- U6 – Natalie Lee, Laurissa Manning
- U8 – Nina Paliwal, Sarah DeCoutere
- U10 Boys and Girls – Mary Britten

I have had many discussions with my coordinators to see how we can improve on such things as mini orientation day and have come up with some possible solutions to this very busy day with all our mini population coming to meet their coach and picking up their jerseys. One of the main ways will be to cancel all online registration two weeks before orientation in order for the coordinators to create the teams and to let the coaches and parents know what teams their children are on and I believe this will certainly help with the confusion on this day.

In conclusion, I would like say thanks again to my coordinators, Dorothy and Peter as well as Tony Hall, who gave his time to come out and coordinate the mini coaches clinics, and last but not least to all the Board members who offered their support throughout my first year.

Soccermania

The Dartmouth United Mini Fest was held at Shannon Park fields on July 12-13, 2008. There were a total of 84 teams that participated in this tournament which made it a huge success. Clubs that participated in this tournament were DU, Eastern Passage, Porter's Lake, New Scotland, Scotia, Cole Harbour, East Hants and Halifax County. We were fortunate to have some great sponsors, which included Credit Union Atlantic, Soccer Pro, Scotsburn, Tim Horton's as well as Boston Pizza. It was great to see so many "Timbits", parents and coaches having such a great time on the soccer field.

Special thanks goes to Alan Parslow for all his time and dedication to the first ever Soccermania Website and for all his help with the scheduling which was a huge help to me. I would also like to thank Rob MacVarnock and his U14 T2A team for doing a great job with the canteen for this event. Thanks to the many Board members that were there to offer their support and help over the two days.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Britten
VP Minis, DUSC

Note: The festival financial statements can be found in *Appendix A*.